## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT ECKMILLER, ROLF ET AL.

TITLE MICROCONTACT STRUCTURE FOR NEUROPROSTEHESES

FOR IMPLANTATION ON NERVE TISSUE AND METHOD

**THEREFOR** 

FILING DATE Herewith

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Honorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box Patent Applications, Washington, D.C. 20231

Date of Deposit: Jan. 26, 200 / Name: Richard C. Woodbridge

Date of Signature:

Signature

Date of Signature: Jan 76, 2001

HONORABLE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS BOX PATENT APPLICATIONS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to a First Office Action on the merits of this application please amend the application as follows:

# **IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 3, line 25 please add the following:

# - BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1a-1c illustrate the manner in which the microcontact structure can be folded.

Fig. 1d illustrates the manner in which the folded structure can be clamped in place.

Attorney Docket No. 5123-157US

Fig. 3 illustrates the manner in which the microcontact structure can conform to the

Figs. 2a-2b illustrate the manner in which the microcontact structure can be rolled into

shape of a three dimensional surface.

Fig. 4a is a cross-sectional illustration of the 4-layer microcontact structure in which

the active connection between the microcontact structure and the nerve tissue is brought about

by electrical stimulation.

a three dimensional object.

Fig. 4b illustrates the manner in which the microcontact structure can be cured by

infrared radiation (I.R.) so that the microcontact film is deformed at defined points by focused

irradiation and matched to the nerve tissue.

Fig. 4c illustrated the deformation of the microcontact structure by focused UV

treatment. -

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REMARKS:

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is submitted in order to bring the application

into better conformance with standard U. S. Patent practice.

Respectfully submitted,

ECKMILLER, ROLF ET AL.

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